

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0734

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 1017

FOLG SECEIVED AS ACTION NEW DELHI INFO DACCA FROM
CALCUTTA DATED JAN 21. RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE.

S E C R E T CALCUTTA 0190

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN
SUBJ: WEST BENGAL AND THE FARAKKA TALKS

REF: DACCA 336, NEW DELHI 956

1. NOTHING HAS BEEN SAID PUBLICLY HERE ABOUT CURRENT
BANGLADESH TALKS ON FARAKKA AND THE CALCUTTA PRESS HAS
CONFINED ITS REPORTING ON THAT SUBJECT TO THE STANDARD
SAMACHAR OUTPUT, WITHOUT EVEN GIVING STORIES PARTICULARLY
PROMINENT PLAY. BUT THE SUBJECT IS NONETHELESS A SENSITIVE
ONE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS, AND WE
DO NOT DOUBT THAT SENIOR GOWB FIGURES WOULD HAVE MADE
REPRESENTATIONS TO THE CENTER OUT OF CONCERN THAT THE
GOI MIGHT GIVE AWAY TOO MUCH FARAKKA WATER IN NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH BANGLADESH. WEST BENGAL IS PERENNIALY RE-
SENTFUL OVER WHAT IT BELIEVES TO BE NEGLECT OF ITS INTER-
ESTS AND/OR DISCRIMINATION AGAINST IT BY THE GOI. THIS

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FEELING HAS BEEN MADE ESPECIALLY ACUTE RECENTLY BY SANJAY
GANDHI'S INTERFERENCE IN THE STATE'S POLITICS AND BY
CONTINUING AND WORSENING OF STAGNATION IN THE INDUSTRIAL
AND COMMERCIAL SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY. PLANS FOR FLUSHING
OF THE CALCUTTA PORT AND THE HOOGLY CALL FOR AN OFFTAKE
OF 40,000 CUSECS FROM FARAKKA.

2. THERE IS SOME AMBIVALENCE IN BENGALI ATTITUDES ON THIS ISSUE. IN DISCUSSING FARAKKA ISSUE BENGALIS WILL ALWAYS PROCLAIM WITH GREAT CEREMONY THEIR DESIRE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH BANGLADESH. THEY THEN PROCEED TO RATIONALIZE THEIR POSITION ON FARAKKA BY ALLEGING THAT BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT'S CLAIM OF WATER SHORTAGES AS A RESULT OF INDIAN OFFTAKE IS A PURELY POLITICAL ONE REFLECTING THE CURRENT REGIME'S BASIC HOSTILITY TOWARD INDIA. SEVERAL MONTHS BACK WHEN THE DISPUTE BETWEEN INDIA AND BANGLADESH OVER FARAKKA WATERS WAS AT ITS MOST ACRIMONIOUS ONE GOWB MINISTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE EXCLAIMED PUBLICLY: "WE GAVE THEM OUR BLOOD (IN 1971), NOW THEY WANT OUR WATER*" KORN UNQUOTE. SCHNEIDER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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